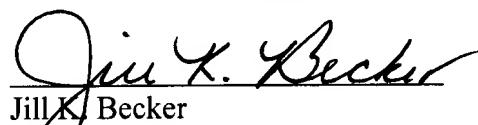


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Novaes et al. Confirmation No.: 5275
Serial No.: 09/584,259 Group Art Unit: 2155
Filed: 05/31/00 Examiner: Young N. Won
Title: METHOD, SYSTEM AND PROGRAM PRODUCTS FOR MANAGING
PROCESSING GROUPS OF A DISTRIBUTED COMPUTING
ENVIRONMENT

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on February 21, 2006.



Jill K. Becker

Date of Signature: February 21, 2006.

To: Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Preliminary Amendment

Dear Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment and attached Request for Continued Examination (RCE) is being submitted in reply to the Advisory Action mailed February 14, 2006 for the above-referenced patent application. A Response to the Final Office Action, which was initially due on or before January 19, 2006, was filed on January 24, 2006 with a Request for a One-Month Extension of Time, extending our time to respond to February 19, 2006. Since February 19, 2006 is a Sunday and Monday, February 20, 2006 is a holiday, this Preliminary Amendment is being timely filed on Tuesday, February 21, 2006.

Prior to examination of the above-referenced application, please amend the application, as follows.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 11 of this paper.